



# TOWARDS A ZERO SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED **VIOLENCE** (SGBV) NATION



FIDA-Kenya is a non-governmental organization established in 1985. The organization's vision is to create a society that respects and upholds women's rights. Its mission is to promote women's individual and collective power to claim their rights in all spheres of life. On a daily basis, FIDA-Kenya works with and through networks of individuals and community-based organizations and partners to reach needy clients throughout Kenya. Extensive engagement in policy advocacy, campaign against gender-based violence and legislative reforms has enabled the organization to make significant contributions towards the development and enactments of several gender responsive laws and policies.



*FIDA-Kenya holding a community dialogue forum in Tana River.*

The 16 days of activism to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is the annual International Campaign that runs from 25th November to 10th December, calling for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. In support of this Civil Society Initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, global nations are beckoned towards global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

The elimination of GBV and the protection of survivors are unmistakably stated in Kenyan legislation, various policy frameworks, as well as in the country's economic blueprint of Vision 2030. Kenya is a signatory to international and regional declarations against GBV. On several international platforms including the Women Deliver Conference 2019, the President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta envisions a zero GBV nation by 2022. However, Gender-Based violence remains one of the most severe forms of gender inequality and discrimination in Kenya. It is one of the most per-

vasive human rights violations of modern times affecting women and girls. Over 200 femicide cases have been reported between the period of January to November 2019, these statistics are deeply alarming and a point of grave concern.

Gender Based violence is directly linked with the unequal distribution of power between women and men which explains the direct effect on families, communities, and societies as a whole. Deep-rooted, and complex set of patriarchal beliefs, power, and control continue to create a social environment in which GBV is pervasive and normalized. Unfortunately, data on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) victims is difficult to confirm due

to systemic latitude and impunity accorded to perpetrators, societal stigma towards survivors, and their subsequent silence.

Further, GBV is a criminal offence and a moral indignation as provided in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Kenyan Penal Code and the Sexual Offences Act 2006. However, according to a 2014 survey carried out by the National Crime Research Center (NCRC), GBV reporting was significantly low. Only 15.2% of female and 16.7% of male respondents who had ever been sexually violated had reported or had someone else report the act of sexual violence. Only 10.3% of women and 6.8% of men reported having been asked at a health facility of any GBV physical or sexual experience they might have encountered. The National Gender and Equality Commission reports that 45% of women aged between 15-49 have experienced physical violence. This translates to 1 in 7 girls within the aforementioned age bracket having experienced SGBV.

Moving forward, the social and cultural barriers that have hindered women, and girls from reporting SGBV related violations must be addressed. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) requires a comprehensive multi-dimen-

sional approach ranging from preventive, protective, retributive, and restorative approaches. Through technology and established service provision such as Gender Desks at police station, access to justice is achieved. Periodic training and sensitizations of local administration will allow for the transference of knowledge, attitudes, and skills that will protect and empower women and girls. Not forgetting the crucial role played by development partners in the gender equality arena, all duty bearers must be held to account to ensure full implementation of the existing laws while promoting the elimination of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls in Kenya.

Additionally, Kenyans and the society in general need to embrace alternative forms of addressing conflicts. Violence is not a solution to any form of conflict within the society. FIDA-Kenya, is the premier Family Mediation Center and has been conducting mediations since 2001. This particular form of dispute resolution has been crucial in bringing families together in the midst of conflict. Mediation has helped reduce family tensions that may lead to conflict and violence whilst restoring the family unit. FIDA-Kenya conducts an average of 40 mediations every fortnight which go a long way in uniting violence thereby curbing intimate partner violence in society.



*Nairobi Woman Rep. Hon. Esther Passaris launching the Mediation center donated to FIDA-Kenya by the National Government Affirmative Action Fund in December 2019.*

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES, GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PR AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, DAISY OLOO ON [DAISYO@FIDAKENYA.ORG](mailto:DAISYO@FIDAKENYA.ORG). ALTERNATIVELY, CALL 0722509760 MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 8:00AM-5:00PM

#### FIDA-KENYA OFFICES.

**Nairobi: 0722509760. Mombasa: 0724256659, Kisumu: 0722466848**

**Email address: [info@fidakenya.org](mailto:info@fidakenya.org)  
Website: [www.fidakenya.org](http://www.fidakenya.org)**